



Dove Hunting

Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge

Doves are the most hunted game animals in North America. Dove hunting in Texas is very popular with old and young alike. Each year, millions of hunters take to the field during the opening of dove season. Sons, daughters, husbands, wives, grandparents, and friends enjoy good company and good hunting when "dove" season opens. Many youngsters enjoy their very first experience at hunting during this time; many will form enduring memories from their first hunt.

Each year, about 45 million mourning doves are harvested out of a continental population of 475 million birds. The mourning dove population is closely monitored each year to insure that this renewable resource is available to future generations

Balcones Canyonlands NWR allows hunting of mourning doves, white-winged doves, rock doves, and the Eurasian collared-dove. A hunting fee and permit is required prior to dove hunting on the refuge. In addition, the refuge also offers limited big-game hunting through a public draw system. Payment of a hunting fee and a permit is required before hunting for big-game on the refuge.

Hiking trails and bird watching opportunities also exist on the refuge. Contact the refuge for more details (512/339-9432), or visit the refuge's web site at: <http://southwest.fws.gov/refuges/texas/balcones.html>.

Balcones Canyonlands NWR is one of over 500 National Wildlife Refuges. At least one National Wildlife Refuge is located in every state. To learn about refuges in Texas and the Southwest Region of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife, visit the web site at: <http://southwest.fws.gov/refuges/index.html>. Many of these refuges offer a variety of outdoor recreational activities, including hunting and fishing.

Dove Hunting Regulations

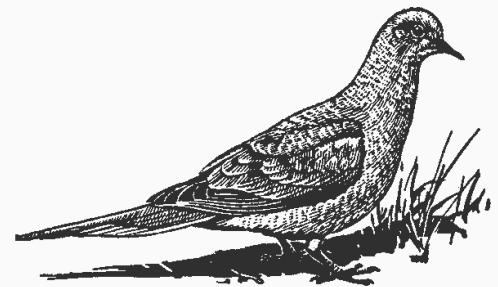
- A valid Texas hunting license and payment of a \$15 hunting fee is required to obtain a hunting permit (permit must be in your possession while hunting).
- **Nontoxic shot, approved for waterfowl hunting is required** (such as steel or bismuth shot).
- Hunting allowed noon to sunset, September 1-2, 8-9, 15-16.
- All hunters must be 10-years-old or older (hunters ages 10-17 must be supervised by an adult 21-years-old or older).
- Dogs are allowed for retrieving game birds, but must be under control at all times.
- Legal game includes mourning doves, white-winged doves, rock doves and Eurasian collared-doves. Shooting at other birds or animals is prohibited.
- Alcohol of any kind is not allowed.

- Shotguns must be plugged and hold no more than three shells at one time.
- No person shall take in any one day more than one daily bag limit for mourning and white-winged doves. Rock doves and Eurasian collared doves have no bag limit.
- Wounded birds shall be killed immediately and included in a hunters daily bag limit.

Hunting Safety

- Do not load your shotgun until you are at your chosen hunt site. Unload your shotgun as soon as you are done hunting.
- Do not shoot at low-flying birds under any circumstance.
- Do not shoot at birds perched on power lines.
- Be aware of the positions of your fellow hunters.

A map showing how to get to the dove-hunting site is on the reverse of this page.



Balcones Canyonlands NWR
Map to Dove Hunting Field

